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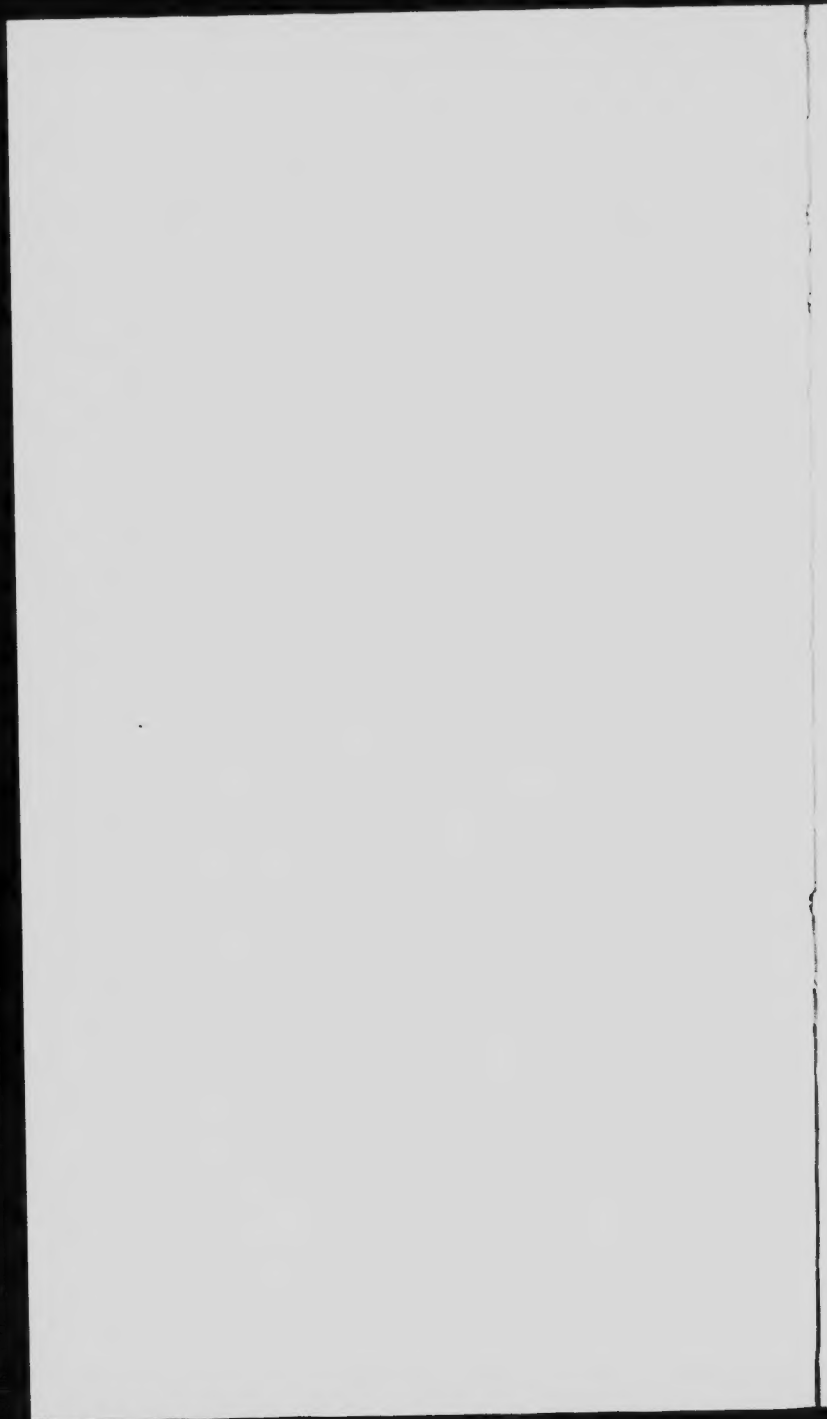
*The Story
Of*



THE BLACK WATCH



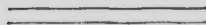
BEING A SHORT
SUMMARY OF
BATTLES AND
INCIDENTS IN
THE CAREER OF
BRITAIN'S MOST
CELEBRATED
REGIMENT



The Story

— OF —

“The Black Watch”



Being a short summary of Battles
and Incidents in the career of
Britain's most celebrated Regiment

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THE STORY OF THE BLACK WATCH

Hail! gallant regiment, Freiceadan Dubh,
Whenever Albion needs thine aid;
"Aye, ready!" for whatever foe
Shall dare to meet the Black Brigade.
Witness disastrous Fontenoy:
When all seemed lost, who brought us through
And bore the burnt? "The Forty-two!"
"The Black Watch," "Dugald Dhu."

The brave deeds of brave men always make interesting, entertaining and instructive reading. In this category there is no body of men better entitled to appear than the old 42nd Royal Highlanders, or the famous "Black Watch," a regiment which has earned for itself a reputation for gallantry and discipline second to none of all the famous regiments that form His Majesty's Army, and the band of which, with pipers and all—sixty-two pieces, all told—will be at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, August 29th to September 10th, of the present year. From the date of their formation in 1725 the Royal Highlanders have been noted, first, for their loyalty, and next, for their dash, endurance and devotion to duty. It was in the year named, after the fruitless attempt of the Jacobites to involve Scotland in civil war, that a number of Highland gentlemen volunteered for the service of the Crown; and in 1729 the Government resolved that these loyal Highlanders should be embodied and constituted part of the regular domestic military force of Scotland. At that time six independent companies were formed, three of one hundred men each and three of seventy-five, all the officers, from the colonel down, being leading Highland chieftains.

These independent companies wore the clan tartan, consisting mostly of the black, blue and green of their respective commanders, and from their sombre appearance they were designated "Am Freiceadan Dubh," or "Black Watch," to distinguish them from the regular

troops, who were called "Saighdearan Dearg," or "Red soldiers," on account of the prevailing colour of their uniform. The private men of the "Black Watch" were provided with muskets and bayonets, and besides these weapons each Highlander had his broadsword, target, pistols and dirk. The sergeants carried the Tuagh, or Lochaber axe. As the operations of these companies were confined to their own territories, they enlisted the services of the members of many distinguished families.

In its early history, the duties of the "Black Watch" were to enforce the obnoxious Disarming Act, to watch the movements of the disaffected clans, and to check the depredations of the Caterans or Highland robbers. So well did they perform these duties that in 1739 His Majesty George II. decided to raise four additional companies, and to incorporate them as a regiment of the line. The Earl of Crawford and Lindsay was appointed colonel.

Their uniform originally consisted of scarlet jacket and waistcoat, with buff facings and white lace; a tartan plaid twelve yards long, plaited around the middle of the body, the upper part being fixed on the left shoulder, ready to be thrown loose and wrapped over both shoulders and musket in wet weather. This was called the belted plaid, and was worn on full dress parades and duties, but in barracks, and when not on duty, the philibeg, or little kilt, was worn. The head-dress was a blue bonnet, bordered with white, red and green, arranged in small squares to resemble, as is said, the Fess Chequy in the arms of the Stewart family. Tartan hose with buckled shoes were worn; and purses made of badger skin. The officers' dress coats were embroidered with gold, while the sergeants' jackets were trimmed with silver lace.

In 1743 the "Black Watch" were first sent on foreign service, and from that time on the employment of this magnificent regiment in defence of the Empire has been almost continuous.

Wherever they have been they have played their part in a manner that has earned them special mention in despatches. Their renown extends to all quarters of the globe, while in Canada their name and fame are almost as familiar as in historic Scotland itself. Space will not permit a detailed history of their career, or of all their

splendid feats of arms. Prior, therefore, to giving descriptions of the principal battles and incidents in which this famous regiment has been engaged, a list is herewith presented in chronological order of the principal events in the history of the regiment:—

Chronological History of the "Black Watch"

Year 1729—Independent companies "Black Watch" formed.

1739—Regiment organized.

1743—Embarked for Flanders.

1745—Battle of Fontenoy.

Battle of Preston Pans.

1746—Served in North America.

1747—Served in Flanders.

1751—Number of regiment fixed as Forty-second.

1756—Embarks for North America.

1758—Attack on Ticonderoga.

Second battalion organized.

Authorized to bear the distinction of
"Royal Highland Regiment."

1759—Attack on Martinique.

Capture of Guadaloupe.

Second battalion embarks for North
America.

Second attack on Ticonderoga.

1760—Capture of Montreal.

1762—Capture of Martinique.

Capture of Havana.

Embarks for North America.

1763-4—Employed against Red Men.

1767—Embarks for Ireland.

1776—Embarks for North America.

Battle of Brooklyn.

1776—Capture of Long Island.

Siege of Fort Washington.

Affair at Pisquata.

Expedition to Pennsylvania.

Battle of Brandywine.

Battle of Germantown.

1779—Capture of Stoney Point and Vereplank.

1780—Siege of Charlestown.

1781—Second battalion embarks for West Indies.

1783—Removed to Nova Scotia.

1785—New colors presented to regiment.

1786—Second battalion made 73rd Regiment.

1789—Return to England.

1790—Regimental Band organized.

1793—Served in Flanders.

1795—West Indies again.

1796—Capture of St. Lucia.

1797—Capture of Minorca.

1801—Battle of Aboukir Bay.

Battle of Alexandria Bay.

Authorized to bear "Sphinx" and "Egypt"
on regiment's colors.

- 1802—Joins the army in Portugal.
- 1809—Battle of Corunna.
Expedition against Holland.
- 1812—Siege of Ciudad Roderigo.
Siege of Badajoz.
Battle of Salamanca.
- 1813—Battle of Vittoria.
Battle of Pyrenees.
Battle of Nivelle.
- 1814—Battle of Toulouse.
- 1815—Battle of Quatre Bras.
Battle of Waterloo.
- 1854—War of the Crimea.
Battle of the Alma.
Battle of Balaclava.
- 1856—Fall of Sebastapol.
- 1857—Battle of Cawnpore.
- 1858—Relief of Lucknow (subject of grand
spectacle at Canadian National Exhibi-
tion, Toronto.)
- 1859—Authorized to bear "Lucknow" on regi-
mental colors.
- 1861—New colors presented by Sir Hugh Rose,
Commander-in-Chief.
- 1868—Return to Edinburgh, grand reception.
- 1873—Expedition against Ashanti.
- 1874—Capture Borborassie, Amoaful, Becquah
and Ordahan and Coomassie.
- 1882—Battle of Tel-el-Kebir.
- 1884—Battle of El Teb.
Capture of Kirbekan.
- 1898—Battle of Khartoum.
- 1899—South Africa, "Magersfontein."

Of the conduct of the "Black Watch" in South Africa, and especially in the terrible assault at Magersfontein, when their beloved leader, Col. Wauchope, was killed, and many brave, stalwart Highlanders met their fate, the history is too recent to need repetition. With this incidental mention therefore we bring this brief record of the Empire's most distinguished corps to a close, fully assured that in peace or war, in camp or quarters, the "Black Watch" will ever maintain the glorious reputation won by the "Auld Forty Twa."

"Black Watch" at Fontenoy

In April, 1754, the French General, Marshal Saxe, at the head of 26,000 men, was invading Tournay, and the Duke of Cumberland led the allied forces to the relief of that city. The rival armies came into collision at Fontenoy, where the "Black Watch," with sword, pistol and dirk, forced the French to give up a strong position at great loss. In a second attack on Fontenoy the Highlanders were conspicuous for their intrepidity and

elan, for rushing forward they without waiting for the slow move of the Dutch, carried, sword in hand, a post held by the French Guards. Again and again the Highlanders attacked the French, who were entrenched in a strong position. They seemed to be everywhere, and everywhere they seemed to be, the French gave way with terrible loss. Count Lally's famous Irish brigade however, came to the rescue of the enemy, for whom they saved the day.

Thanks to gallantry and discipline of the "Black Watch," the Dutch and British were enabled to retire in good order. Speaking of this engagement, which was the maiden battle of the "Black Watch," Doddridge says: "The gallantry of Sir Robert Munro and his Highlanders was the theme of admiration throughout all Britain."

The Part the "Black Watch" Played in Securing Canada for Britain

In the spring of 1756 hostilities having broken out between the French and British colonies in North America, the "Black Watch" embarked for New York under command of Lieut.-Col. Grant. Arriving there in June, the "Black Watch" proceeded to Albany, where they were held in readiness to repel any attacks on British territory which the French might make from Lake Champlain. The French, however, limited their efforts to the erection of the Fort Ticonderoga on the shores of the lake.

After taking part in several minor engagements, in the spring of 1758, the 42nd was ordered to join a body of troops selected to attack Ticonderoga under General Abercromby. The fort could only be approached from one side, which was strongly entrenched, the garrison numbering some 5,000 men. The assaulting columns were unable to force their way through the abattis, on account of the many obstacles which had been placed in their way, and suffered heavily from artillery and musketry fire, whereupon the "Black Watch" rushed forward from the reserve, hewed their way through the obstacles with their broad swords, and, no ladders having been provided, made strenuous efforts to carry the breastwork, partly by mounting on each other's shoulders and partly by placing their feet in holes which they dug with their swords and bayonets.

After a desperate struggle of four hours' duration General Abercromby ordered a retreat, an order which had to be thrice repeated before the Highlanders would withdraw.

As an eye-witness described them: "They appeared like lions breaking from their chains, and, though unable to carry the fort, they earned immortal glory."

In this one engagement they lost 8 officers, 9 sergeants and 297 men killed; 17 officers, 10 sergeants and 306 men wounded.

His Majesty George II., recognizing their splendid bravery and sacrifice, conferred upon the "Black Watch" the title of the Royal Highland Regiment.

In July, 1759, the second battalion joined the first at Ticonderoga, which, along with Crown Point and Isle aux Noix, was evacuated by the French.

In the campaign of 1760 the first and second battalions were largely instrumental in conquering Canada for the British, taking a leading part in the capture of Montreal.

The Red Heckle

Since 1795 the soldiers of the "Black Watch" have worn a red feather or "heckle" in their bonnets, being in this respect distinguished from all other Highland regiments. The following is the story of the "glorious old red heckle" as told by Donald Cameron, of Campbellton, Invernesshire, who himself took part in the exploit:

"Much has been said and much conjectured of the manner in which the red feather was awarded as a distinctive mark to be worn by the 42nd Regiment, the truth of which is as follows: A movement of the army in Holland having taken place on the last days of December, 1794, the 42nd Regiment, quartered at Thuyt, received orders to march late on the night of 31st December towards Bommell, distant about twenty miles, on the opposite side of the River Waal, and arrived about four o'clock 1st January, 1795, near the bank of the river, having taken a circuitous march, as did also a number more regiments, and rested till daybreak, when the attack was made, and drove the French across the river on the ice, and held a position on the bank of the river till the evening of the 3rd, when a partial retreat took place, leaving strong picquets. Early on the morning of the 14th the picquets were overpowered

by the French, and obliged to retreat towards the village of Guildermalsen, where the 42nd and other corps were stationed. The cavalry of the French pushed their way through the retreating picquets to the very ranks, some of which cavalry fell into our hands. A trumpeter remained with the regiment for some time after our arrival in England, who was given over to the York Rangers for a trumpeter at the formation of that corps.

The 11th Light Dragoons were stationed in front of the village to cover the retreat of the picquets with their field pieces; and, instead of resisting the charge of the French cavalry, they immediately retreated at a furious rate to the rear of the village, leaving their guns in possession of the French cavalry, who commenced dragging them off. An A.D.C. (Major Rose) came and ordered the commanding officer (Major Dalrymple) of the 42nd Regiment to advance and retake the guns of the 11th Dragoons, which was immediately complied with, with the loss of one man killed and three wounded. The guns were dragged in by the men as the harness had been cut and the horses disabled. There was no notice taken of this affair at the time as all was bustle and confusion.

Much had been said and conjectured about the conduct of the 11th Dragoons on the 4th of January, 1795, and, although it was rumored that some distinctive mark was to be awarded to the 42nd Regiment, we never thought that the transfer of the red feather from the 11th Dragoons to the corps was to be the distinctive mark conferred. The 11th Dragoons were substituted with the white feather and yellow top.

On the 4th June, 1795, when quartered at Royston, near Cambridge, after firing three rounds in honor of H.M. George III.'s birthday, a box containing the feathers arrived on the common, which were distributed to the officers and men, the commanding officer giving a speech, the subject of which was the honor of wearing the red feather, conferred on the 42nd Regiment for their gallant conduct on the 4th January, 1795.

"The officers and men placed the feathers in their bonnets, and marched into Royston, and on the evening of 4th of June were paid the arrears due for eighteen months, with a caution to keep close to their own billets and be regular."

(Signed), DONALD CAMERON.

The "Black Watch" at Aboukir Bay

In 1801 Sir Ralph Abercromby, with a force of which the 42nd formed part, proceeded to Egypt to expel the French "Army of the East" from that country. On the 1st March the fleet anchored at Aboukir Bay, and on the 8th, 150 boats, laden with 5,000 troops, rendezvoused under the lee of Mondovi, and pulled for the shore. In the face of a terrific fire the British troops landed, and, forming up in line, rushed forward to the attack, led by General Moore, who commanded the division to which the 42nd was attached. "The Royal Highlanders," writes Mr. Cameron, "leaped on shore, formed on the beach, and rushing up the steep ascent, rendered difficult by loose sand, in the face of the fire of a battalion of infantry and two guns, speedily gained the summit, and instantly closing on their numerous opponents with bayonets, drove them from their position before they had time to fire a second volley. Scarcely had the 'Black Watch' driven back the French infantry when a squadron of cavalry galloped forward to charge them, but it was immediately repulsed with the loss of its commanding officer." The French rallied in rear of a second line of sand-hills, from which they maintained a scattered fire, but the British troops pressed on and soon drove the enemy from the field, thus achieving a victory "almost without a parallel in the annals of war." On this occasion the 42nd lost 31 men killed and 8 officers and 151 men wounded.

Battle of Alexandria

After one or two minor engagements, in which the British were victorious, the opposing armies faced each other before Alexandria for the decisive battle of the Egyptian campaign.

At 3 a.m. on the memorable 21st March, 1801, in accordance with Sir Ralph Abercromby's invariable custom, the British troops were under arms in the dark. For half an hour not a sound was heard; then the discharge of musketry and artillery on the left announced that an attack was about to be made, and presently the picquets were rapidly driven in. The 28th was at once ordered into the redoubt on the left of a

ruined palace, and the left wing of the 42nd, under Major James Stirling, formed up 200 yards in the rear. Scarcely were these dispositions made when the enemy attacked the ruins, the redoubt and the left wing of the 42nd, but were repulsed by the steady fire of the British.

Favored by the gloom and noise of the combat in front, a demi-brigade of French Grenadiers, known as the "Invincibles," preceded by a 6-pounder gun, now penetrated unobserved between the wings of the 42nd. The moment this column was observed the right wing of the 42nd attacked its front, and captured the 6-pounder, while Major Stirling, facing his rear rank about, attacked its rear. Caught between two fires, the "Invincibles" rushed towards the ruins, receiving, as they passed, the fire of the 28th and 40th flank companies, followed by the "Black Watch" in hot pursuit, and as they entered the ruins two companies of the 58th charged them with the bayonet. Thus brought to bay, the "Invincibles" fought with desperate courage, and did not surrender until nearly 700 of their number were hors de combat. The standard of the "Invincibles" was captured and placed in charge of Sergeant Sinclair of the Grenadier Company 42nd, with directions to remain close to the gun which the regiment had captured.

The "Invincibles" being thus disposed of, the 42nd issued from the ruins, and commenced to form line in battalion on the flats, with their right supported by the redoubt; but at that moment another column of French infantry pressed forward so rapidly that General Moore ordered the regiment to advance before its formation was completed. Cheered on by Sir Ralph Abercromby, who was on the spot, the "Black Watch" charged with renewed ardor, and driving back their assailants, pursued them along the sandy plain. They were in full pursuit when General Moore perceived three squadrons of French cavalry preparing to charge through the intervals of the retreating infantry, so he at once ordered the 42nd to resume its former position. This order, however, was only partially heard, and whilst some companies of the regiment fell back, others continued to advance. In this broken state the 42nd was



THE BLACK WATCH AT ALEXANDRIA—(From an Old Painting.)

charged by the enemy's dragoons, when for some minutes the issue of combat appeared very doubtful, but the Highlanders fought with undiminished courage, individually and in small groups, and finally beat off the Frenchmen. In this charge Sergeant Sinclair, who had the captured standard of the "Invincibles" in his care, was ridden down and stunned, and on regaining his senses found the standard gone. It was, however, recovered by Private Anthony Lutz, of the Minorca Regiment, who had advanced to support the 42nd.

During the melee Sir Ralph Abercromby was attacked by two dragoons, who attempted to take him prisoner. He was rescued by Corporal Barker and two privates of the "Black Watch," who shot one of his assailants and put the other to flight.

The French made one more attempt on the right of the British position, which was repulsed, as were the attacks on the centre and left. By 8 a.m. the enemy was beaten at all points, and by ten o'clock they were in full retreat. The joy of this famous victory was overshadowed by the fall of the gallant Abercromby, who was mortally wounded by a musket-ball, and died on board the *Foudroyant* on the 28th March.

The British lost 244 killed and 1,193 wounded. The 42nd's casualties amounting to 54 killed and 261 wounded. The conduct of the regiment on this occasion has been a favourite theme with military historians, and well-deserved honours were bestowed on the survivors by a grateful country. The battle of Alexandria resulted in the capitulation of 24,000 French veterans and the re-conquest of Egypt.

Their Bravery Brightens the last Moments of Sir John Moore

In pursuance of their policy of opposing Napoleon the British Government sent an expedition to Portugal to assist the people of that country in driving their French conquerors across the border. The cowardice and treachery of the Portuguese rendered this campaign a failure, but the masterly retreat of Sir John Moore to the seaport of Corunna shed a lustre upon British arms which time has not even dimmed. In order to cover his embarkation the General gave battle at Corunna.

Twenty thousand French troops assembled on the opposite hills, where soon after midday on the 16th of January they were seen preparing for action. About two in the afternoon a heavy battery opened its fire; three columns of attack covered by skirmishers descended the mountains. The first column carried the village of Elvina, then dividing, attempted to turn the right of Sir David Baird's division, and to break its front. At the same time the second column advanced against the centre; and the third attacked the left. The brunt of the battle on the right was sustained by the Fourth, Forty-second ("Black Watch") and the Fiftieth Regiments under Major-General Lord William Bentinck; and this brigade resisted the furious onset of the enemy with a resolution and energy which proved the unconquerable spirit and excellent discipline of the three regiments. The Fourth met that part of the French column which attempted to turn the right flank by the valley; and the Forty-second (the "Black Watch") encountered the battalions breaking through Elvina. The ground round the village was intersected by stone walls and holly roads, and a severe combat ensued. Sir John Moore was on the spot, and as the "Black Watch" advanced to meet the enemy he called out, "Highlanders, remember Egypt!" The sound of the voice of the beloved officer, under whose command they had conquered at Alexandria, animated the soldiers, and they rushed forward, overpowering all opposition. The Fiftieth Regiment, entering Elvina with the retreating enemy, recaptured the village. The general applauded this brilliant success, and ordered up a battalion of Footguards to fill the void in the line occasioned by the advance of the two regiments, when the light infantry and two or three other companies of the Forty-second, who had expended their ammunition, mistook his intention and retired, thinking they were to be relieved by the Footguards. At that moment the enemy became reinforced, renewed the fight beyond the village, the commanding officer of the Fiftieth was wounded and taken prisoner, and Elvina became the scene of another struggle. General Sir John Moore, observing this, turned to the Highlanders who had retired, and said: "My brave Forty-second, join your comrades; ammunition is coming, and you have your

bayonets. At the well-known voice of their general the Highlanders instantly sprang forward and closed with the enemy with bayonets. About this period Sir David Baird was wounded and forced to quit the field, and soon afterwards Sir John Moore was struck to the ground by a cannon ball. He was raised up; his eyes were steadily fixed on the Highlanders, who were contending manfully with their numerous antagonists; and when he was assured that the "Black Watch" were victorious, his countenance brightened up, he expressed his satisfaction, and was removed to the rear, where he expired, to the great regret of the officers and the soldiers, who admired and esteemed their gallant commander. The French were repulsed at every point, and they withdrew from the contest with a considerable diminution of their superior numbers. The British were triumphant, and they had proved that, although incessant toil, loss of sleep and food, and exposure to inclement weather might diminish their physical powers, yet their innate bravery remained in its full vigour. Lieut-General Hope in his despatches expressed his thanks to the "Black Watch," and they were permitted to add "Corunna" to their colors.

The "Black Watch" at Quatre Bras

The return of Napoleon from Elba once more forced the British Government to send an army to the Continent to act in concert with the Prussian and Belgian troops in overthrowing him.

Landing at Ostend, the 42nd, under Col. Sir R. Macara, marched to Brussels, and was attached to the 5th, Picton's fighting division. In the middle of June, Bonaparte endeavoured by a rapid movement to interpose between the British and Prussians, so that he might defeat them in detail. News of this movement reached Brussels late on 15th June, and by 4 a.m. on the 16th Picton's division was on its way to meet the enemy. After a march of twenty-two miles the 42nd arrived at the post of Les Quatre Bras just as the 2nd French corps, under Marshal Ney, was developing a serious attack on that position. The British regiments formed for action as they came on the scene of conflict, and been assailed by the enemy advancing from different



THE BLACK WATCH AT QUATRE BRAS
(From an Old Painting)

points, each regiment had to fight independently, and in many instances to stand or fall by itself. As the 42nd was advancing through a rye-field, it was charged by a body of French lancers before it had time to form square. Though taken at a disadvantage, the Royal Highlanders were not dismayed, and, fighting back to back, they repulsed their antagonists. The two flank companies suffered most severely, and Sir Robert Macara who was with them, was killed by a lance thrust. Col. Dick succeeded him, but soon fell severely wounded, and Brevet-Major Davidson met with a like fate. The command then devolved on Brevet-Major Campbell. Shortly after the repulse of the Lancers the 42nd was charged by a regiment of Cuirassiers. As related by Sergt. Anton (42nd) in his "Military Life": "Our last file had got into square and into its proper place so far as unequalized companies could form a square, when the Cuirassiers dashed full on two of its faces. A most destructive fire was opened. Riders cased in heavy armour fell tumbling from their horses; the horses reared, plunged and fell on the dismounted rs. Shrieks and groans of men, the neighing of horses and the discharge of musketry rent the air, as men and horses mixed together in one heap of indiscriminate slaughter. Those who were able to fly, fled towards a wood on our right from whence they had issued to the attack."

Finally, the French were repulsed at all points, and the British stood victorious on the field of battle. At Quatre Bras the 42nd displayed "unparalleled bravery," and were particularly mentioned by the Duke of Wellington in his despatch. The losses of the regiment amounted to 3 officers and 42 men killed and 243 wounded.

The "Black Watch" at Waterloo

In the battle of Waterloo, in which the 42nd was partially engaged, the regimental casualties were 5 men killed and 12 (including 6 officers) wounded. Throughout this memorable and historic day the "Black Watch," although reduced in numbers, performed prodigies of valour, as did the rest of the British troops engaged, and well maintained the traditions of the regiment. It is said that when the "Scots Greys" were ordered to

charge the French, the Highlanders became so enthused that breaking ranks they caught hold of the stirrups of the "Grays" and charged for some distance with them shouting "Scotland for ever!" The word "Waterloo" borne on their colors commemorates the gallantry of the 42nd in the short but glorious campaign of 1815, which resulted in the final overthrow of Bonaparte.

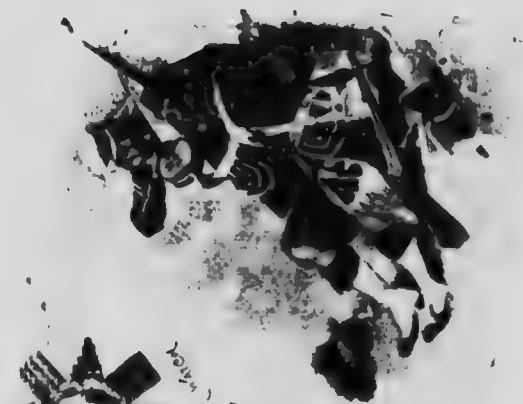
The "Black Watch" at Alma

The battle of the Alma was the first one fought by the allied British and French armies during the Crimean War, and resulted in a complete victory for the allied arms. The story of how the "Black Watch" gained back the Highland bonnet, of which they had been deprived, is one of its most glorious traditions.

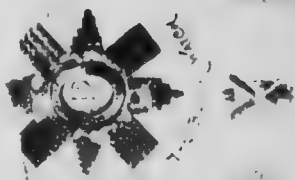
The Russians had massed a large body of picked infantry in entrenchments at the crest of a hill which commanded the slope up which the British had to charge in order to gain the position. It was the crisis of the battle, and the "Black Watch" were selected by Lord Raglan for the terrible task. "Highlanders," said Sir Colin Campbell, ere they came to the charge, "I am going to ask a favour of you. It is that you will act so as to justify me in asking permission of the Queen for you to wear the bonnet. Don't pull a trigger till you're within a yard of the Russians." They charged, and well they obeyed their chieftain's wish. Sir Colin had his horse shot under him; but his men took the battery at a bound. The Russians rushed out and left multitudes of dead behind them. . . . The battle of Alma was won, but it was won with the loss of nearly 3,000 killed and wounded on the side of the allies, and three or four times that number on the part of the Russians.

An Incident of the Alma—The "Black Watch," cheer the Duke of Cambridge

A letter written to a friend by a corporal of the Black Watch gives a life-like glimpse of the battle scene at the Alma: "The bullets were so thick it would make you think you were in a shower of hailstones. After we had taken the heights (mind the Forty-two, the 'Black Watch,' were first to crown it) we sort of half fell out and were half permitted. As I was look-



"LUCKNOW"



"CRIMEA"

ing at the awful carnage I came across a poor Pole; he was shot in the stomach, and was in great agony. I went down on my knees. The tear stood in my eye, and I cried like a child. I clapped him and gave him a drink of water, which was all I could do for him. At that time the Duke himself came up, the same as if he were one of our chums; and at the same time up came a colonel on horseback. 'I have to thank your Royal Highness for saving us to-day.' 'Oh,' says the Duke, 'you must not thank me, for these are the gentlemen that won the day and saved you.' The colonel replied, 'And Sir Colin, too.' 'Ah,' says the Duke, 'Sir Colin is a brick.' 'Aye,' says a sergeant of ours, 'and you are a brick yourself'; and so we gave three times three. Sir Colin told us that he had been granted the favour from the Commander-in-chief to wear a 42nd bonnet in future."

The "Black Watch" at Lucknow

In August, 1857, the 42nd, under Col. A. Cameron, embarked in six transports for India to aid in the suppression of the mutiny, and reached Calcutta in October and November. On the 3rd December the headquarters and five companies, under Col. Thorold (junior lieutenant-colonel) marched with a column from Chmeee to Cawnpore—a distance of nearly eighty miles, which was covered in fifty-six hours—and on the 6th they took part in the action at Cawnpore, when their old Brigadier, Sir Colin Campbell, defeated the rebels. On the 8th the 42nd accompanied Hope Grant's force, which pursued the rebels along the road to Bithoor, and, coming up with them at the ferry of Seria-Ghat on the Ganges, twenty-five miles from Cawnpore, on the 9th, captured all their artillery and a quantity of ammunition and camp equipage. On the 21st Hope Grant returned to Bithoor, where the remainder of the 42nd, under Major Wilkinson, joined headquarters.

In March, 1858, the 42nd took part in the siege and capture of Lucknow, including the attacks on the Martiniere, Ben's Bungalow, and Begum Kootee. Notwithstanding the severe fighting at Lucknow, the 42nd only lost 5 men killed and Lieut. Farquharson and 41 men wounded. The story of how Jessie Brown put heart into the almost despairing garrison by her assertions

that relief was nigh, that she could hear the "Slogan" of the Highlanders long before there was any sign of them, is a matter of history known to every Canadian school boy. Her predictions proved to be true. The mutineers were routed and the heroic garrison relieved, and once again British valour proved that it was fully equal to anything that might be required of it.

NOTE.—The management of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, August 29th to September 10th, 1904, have chosen the Siege of Lucknow, with the incident of Jessie Brown as the subject of a grand spectacle, with fireworks and military accompaniment, including the great Band of the "Black Watch" and Pipers of the regiment, to be presented nightly.

The "Black Watch" at Coomassie

At the close of the year 1873 the 42nd Regiment was ordered to the Gold Coast to join Sir Garnet Wolseley's expedition against the King of Ashanti.

Mr. H. M. Stanley, the New York Herald correspondent, in describing the advance on Coomassie, speaks thus of the "Black Watch": "The conduct of the 42nd Highlanders on many fields has been considerably belauded, but mere laudation is not enough for the gallantry which has distinguished this regiment when in action. It was the audacious spirit and true military bearing on the part of the Highlanders as they moved down the road to Coomassie which challenged admiration this day. Very many were borne back seriously wounded, but the regiment never halted nor wavered; on it went, until the Ashantis, perceiving it useless to fight against men who would advance heedless of ambuscades, rose from their coverts and fled panic-stricken towards Coomassie, being perforated by balls whenever they showed themselves to the hawk-eyed Scots. One man exhibited himself eminently brave among the brave men. His name was Thomas Adams. It is said that he led the way to Coomassie, and kept himself about ten yards ahead of his regiment, bounding on the road like a well-trained hound on a hot scent. This example, together with the cool, calm command of Col. McLeod, had a marvellous effect upon the Highland battalion. In the action of the 4th, Capt. Moore and Lieuts. Grogan



"SOUTH AFRICA"



"ASHANTEE"

and Wauchope and 14 men of the 42nd were wounded. After the capture and destruction of Coomassie the British troops returned to the Coast, and on the 27th February the "Black Watch" sailed for England, arriving at Portsmouth on 23rd March. By Her Majesty's command the word "Ashantee" was added to the honorary distinctions on the colours of the regiment.

The "Black Watch" in the Soudan

In July, 1882, the 1st battalion of the "Black Watch" was ordered to proceed to Egypt on active service against Arabi Pasha and the rebel Egyptians. By the 10th September Sir Garnet Wolseley had concentrated his force at Kassassin, on the fresh water canal, twenty-one miles west of Ismalia, and on the evening of the 12th he advanced against Arabi Pasha's position at Tel-el-Kebir. The Highlanders attacked just before daybreak on the 13th, and bore the brunt of the earlier portion of the assault. By 6.30 the fighting was over, and Arabi's entrenchments and camp were in the hands of the British. The "Black Watch" lost 5 officers and 5 men killed; 6 officers and 37 men wounded.

In February, 1884, the battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Green, proceeded to Suakim as part of Sir Gerald Graham's field force, which was to operate against the rebellious tribes in the Eastern Soudan. On the 29th February Graham's force marched to the relief of Tokar, and encountered the enemy of El Teh. The "Black Watch" was in the thick of the fight, which was a fierce one, and lost 4 men killed and 2 officers and 19 men wounded. On the 12th of March the battalion was present at the battle of Tamai, where the Arabs broke into a square, and were only repulsed after some very hard fighting. The "Black Watch" had 1 officer (Major Aiken) and 59 men killed; 3 officers and 26 men wounded. "Well done, old comrades of the 'Black Watch,'" Lord Wolseley, the adjutant-general, telegraphed on receiving news of this gallant affair.

On 10th February, 1885, six companies of the "Black Watch" took part in the battle of Kirbekan, and carried the Arab position at the point of the bayonet. "The pipers struck up, and with a cheer the 'Black Watch' moved forward with a steadiness and valour which the

enemy was unable to resist, and which called forth the admiration of the general. Without a check the battalion advanced, scaled the rocks and drove the enemy from the shelter." Meanwhile the cavalry had captured the enemy's camp, and the South Stafford (38th) having gallantly stormed the remaining portion of the position, the battle of Kirbekan was won. The "Black Watch" lost Lieut.-Col. Coveny and 5 men killed; Lieut.-Col. Wauchope (afterwards killed at the attack on Magersfontein, South Africa) and 21 men wounded. General Earle also fell at the moment of victory.



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